

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 154697
ORIGIN EA-12

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CUSTOMS/IST:VJACOBSON (PHONE)
EA/EX:DWETHERBEE
EA/P:JCANNON
ICA:LDAKS (INFO)
-----119147 171616Z /43
R 170134Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OPER, TW

SUBJECT: CLOSING OF CUSTOMS OFFICE IN TAIPEI

REFS: A) STATE 150393; B) CUSTOMS 5657

1. SHOULD THERE BE INQUIRIES FROM ROC OR PRESS CONCERNING
CLOSURE OF CUSTOMS OFFICE, EMBASSY SHOULD REPLY ALONG
FOLLOWING LINES: IN ACCORDANCE WITH A WORLD-WIDE PROGRAM
AIMED AT REALIGNING AND REDUCING U.S. GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL
STATIONED OVERSEAS, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO CLOSE THE U.S.
CUSTOMS OFFICE IN TAIPEI AS OF JUNE 30, 1978 AND TO
TRANSFER THE U.S. CUSTOMS ATTACHE FROM TAIPEI TO HONG
KONG. UNDER THIS SAME PROGRAM OTHER REALIGNMENTS AND
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PAGE 02 STATE 154697

ADJUSTMENTS ARE BEING MADE IN SEVERAL OTHER EAST ASIAN
POSTS INCLUDING TOKYO, MANILA, BANGKOK, SINGAPORE,
KUALA LUMPUR AND OTHERS. AFTER JUNE 30, U.S. CUSTOMS
MATTERS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA WILL BE HANDLED BY THE
U.S. CUSTOMS OFFICE IN HONG KONG, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF
THE U.S. EMBASSY IN TAIPEI. IN MAKING THIS ADJUSTMENT,
THE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE IS RETURNING TO THE ARRANGEMENTS

WHICH HAD BEEN IN EFFECT PRIOR TO 1974 WHEN THE CUSTOMS
OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED IN TAIPEI.

2. WHILE WE DO NOT PLAN TO MAKE ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
OF CLOSING, CUSTOMS ATTACHES CHEN AND WILKIE SHOULD
EXPLAIN THE REASONS FOR THIS REALIGNMENT TO THEIR ROC
COUNTERPARTS ALONG THESE LINES EMPHASIZING OUR INTENTION
TO MAINTAIN EFFECTIVE LIAISON ON CUSTOMS MATTERS THROUGH
THESE REVISED ARRANGEMENTS.
NEWSOM

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